

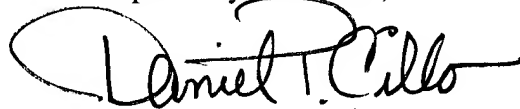
REMARKS

Claim 26, a previously added claim, has been held allowable and patentable over the art cited. Claims 22, 23 and 25 have been currently amended to be dependent upon allowable Claim 26, and should therefore be allowable. Applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusion that Claim 26 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of Nagle. This application has been in substantial prosecution and through appeal, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claim 26 and claims dependent thereon and passage to issue.

SUMMARY

All outstanding issues are believed to have been addressed. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, Claims 26, 22, 23 and 25 are in condition for allowance; and Applicants respectfully request allowance of those claims. Due to the lengthy prosecution, if there are any remaining issues, please promptly advise at one of the numbers listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel P. Cillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel P. Cillo, Esq.
Registration No. 25,108
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
Alcoa Technical Center
100 Technical Drive
Alcoa Center, PA 15069
Attorney for Applicants

Phone (724) 337-2778
Facsimile (724) 337-5959
Daniel.cillo@alcoa.com